Pennsylvania German Dialect Writings, North and West

By HEINZ KLOSZ

(This is the first of a series of three articles by the most eminent European authority on the subject of the Pennsylvania Germans.)

I

JOHN ADAM RITTINGER

UNDER the aspect of the dialect's use and survival as a medium of oral or literary expressionfi emigrants form the home area of the Pennsylvania Germans in eastern and central Pennsylvania may be roughly divided into four main categories:

1.—Scattered individuals or families who settled down among a linguistically "alien" neighborhood. Among those we find some of the most significant dialect authors like Calvin Ziegler, who became a Missourian, and Astor C. Wuchter, who went to Ohio for good. Yet, these men are not representative of Pennsylvania German group life outside of Pennsylvania and I shall omit them in my further discussion.

2.—Small groups forming little Pennsylvania German congregations and communties but undergoing the full impact of either the frontier or the urban milieu and therefore unable to perpetuate the dialect beyond the Pennsylvania-born generation. These small groups may be expected to have produced, occasionally, dialect-writers representative of Pennsylvania German group life. At the same time we may be certain that these were themselves Pennsylvania-born and that their writings were addressed to the folks back home, there being no sufficiently numerous constituency of dialect speakers to warrant attempts toward dialect literature in the new settlement.

3.—Larger groups forming distinct language islands and therefore able to keep the dialect for several generations. From these we may expect occasional dialect writings, even by men who were "outborn." i.e., born in the outlying daughter-settlement. But the settlement will, as a rule, not be sufficiently populous to form an independent constituency for dialect authors; these will be compelled to address the reading public of eastern Pennsylvania whenever they feel the urge to publish something in the mother tongue.

4.—There are, however, a few dialeot areas outside of Pennsylvania sufficiently strong not only to produce "outborn" authors, but also to supply them with a reading public of their own. It is here that we may look for something approaching, at least from far, a literary tradition in the dialect.

Two sections seem particularly fit for independent literary developments: Ohio and Ontario.

In Ohio such evidence as exists is scanty and does not warrant definite conclusions.

In Ontario, on the other hand, a literary succession is well ascertained and easily traceable. It all began in 1890, when John Rittinger published his first dialect letter, which I shall presently submit. Precisely as in Pennsylvania, writings in Pennsylvania German were preceded by a considerable body of writings in High German, beginning in Nova Scotia, where in 1787-89 appeared the German edition of Anthon Henrich's "Halifax Gazette" and c. 1788-90 "Der Neu Schottlaendische Calender," and transplanted into the soil of Ontario, where the Mennonite bishop (since 1812) Benjamin Eby published a German hymn book and his son Peter Eby edited several German books and a High German newspaper (since 1841.) Ontario's first High German newspaper had been founded in 1835, the last one went out of existence in 1918 and it is to the files of these old-time weeklies that we have to turn in our search for dialect writings.

Who was John Rittinger, Ontario's first dialect writer?

John Adam Rittinger was born in Berlin, now Kitchener, Ontario, on Feb. 6, 1855. His parents were Friedrich Rittinger (d. 1897), one of the founders in 1859 of the "Berliner Journal," a High German weekly, and Elizabeth, nee Geiger (d. 1916.) Both were born at Michaelis in the district of Sinsheim, Baden, Germany, in an area where the Palatine dialect is in universal use. After attending the public school John A. Rittinger took a business course at St. Jerome's College, Berlin, Ontario. He then learned the printer's business under his father, after which he worked at his trade in Guelph and Toronto, Ontario, and also in Buffalo and Chicago. Early in the seventies he went to Walkerton, the seat of Bruce County, Ontario, where in 1875 he formed a partnership with Dr. A. Eby, scion of the Pennsylvania German Mennonite family, and bought the "Glocke," a German weekly founded in 1869. In 1878 Rittinger, better known as "der Glockemann," became the sole owner of the paper, which he published until 1904, when he removed to Berlin with his business and united it with the "Journal," published there since 1859. He died on July 15, 1915, in Berlin, Ontario, and was buried in Walkerton.

John Adam Rittinger is described as a man of winsome personality, who was hospitable, extremely witty and a ready story-teller. Although only 20 years of age when he became the editor of the "Glocke," he soon proved to be an able publisher, an untiring newsgatherer and a writer of spicy editorials. He started writing dialect letters in 1890 and by them he made the "Glocke" more popular than ever. He kept on writing them, irregularly though, until 1915. After the First World War, Ontario's German language press having in the meantime disappeared, many of the letters were reprinted in the English-language press of Berlin-Kitchener. Among the readers of the Walkerton "Glocke" in Bruce and Grey counties there was probably a majority of non-Pennsylvania Germans; but these people had either brought over with them the closely related Palatine dialect or had picked up the Pennsylvania vernacular in the employ of Mennonites in Waterloo County before they moved up into the Saugeen country. The constituency of the Berlin "Journal" on the contrary consisted largely of genuine Pennsylvania Germans.

Further on in this article we shall read, in the original spelling, the very first letter written by Rittinger in the dialect. It is dated Jan. 22, 1890, and already shows two characteristics which were to become permanent features, namely, the signature "Joe Klotzkopp," and the topic of Klotzkopp's marital relations with his Irish wife. Since Rittinger, in his actual life, had in 1877 taken a wife of non-German descent, Miss Mary Regerson, there can be little doubt that in describing Joe's and Sally's shortlived pleasures and long-lasting mutual quarrels he has drawn to some extent on his own experiences.

In Ontario Andrew Schumacher, one of Rittinger's employees, became his disciple as a dialect writer. In Pennsylvania the Klotzkopp letters seem first to have been mentioned in 1909 in The Pennsylvania German Magazine, Vol. VIII (No. 4, p. 211), where the letter "Mei Experienz im Circus" is reprinted. In 1924 a Rittinger story had been reprinted in Germany by Karl Mueller-Grote in his book "Onkel Karl. Deptsch-kanadische Lebensbilder" (Bremen,) and from there it has been taken over by H. Klosz into articles appearing in "Der Trifels. Beilage z. Pfaelz. Rundschau," Ludwigshafen, Feb. 3, 1929 ("Pfaelzer Humor in Pennsylvanien") and in "Die Neue Zeit," Neu Ulm & Chicago, Sept. 7, 1929 ("Proben aus dem Pennsylvaniadeutschen Schrifttum".) Thus our author has been brought, in former decades, to the passing attention of US-Pennsylvania Germans, of other German Americans, of Palatines, and of other Germans. But now to our present specimen which constitutes a little landmark in the history of Pennsylvania German dialect literature.

January 22nd, 1890.

Allerlei aus unserer Nochberschaft.
Mister Drucker!

Du muscht mich excuse, dasz ich Dich ah en mol mit ener Correspondenz baddere duh; as regert awer draus, dasz mer ken Hund naus jage mag un do ich es net mach wie manche vun meine Gekannte, die sich am helle Dag bei so Wetter uf die Schofhaut hinne de Ofe lege un schnarcher dasz die Galke fascht die Schwerenoth kriege, so bin ich zu der Conclusion kumme, dir emol e dehl Neiigkeite zu melde. Mei Schreibart is net was der Hochdeitsch "en classisches Deitsch" nennt, sell is ah net nothwendig; ich schreib wie mir der Schnabel gewachse isch un wer's net veschteht, brauch's net zu lese.

Well um Dich in en gute Humor zu bringe, schick ich Dir en neier Subscriber un will Dich ah informe wie ich den gekaetscht hab. Letscht Dunnerstag Owed war mei Nochber, der Chaerly, bei mir un hot gsaht, dasz eens vun seine Buwe die Grippe hot un hot mich um Roth gfrogt. Ich war grad dran Dei Zeiding zu lese un hab ich gerothe er soll emol selle Zwiewelkur browiere. Er hot mich ausglacht, is awer doch bald druff heimgschnickt. Am annere Morge haw ich ihn in Neuschtadt angetroffe un hot er gsaht, dasz sei Jacoble widder allright sei. Die Zwiewele hen's geduh, Mr. Drucker, die Zwiewel. Ich hab ihm dann explehnt, dasz er vielleicht des Lewe vun seim Kind der "Glocke" zu verdanke hot; er hot angebisse un so schick ich Dir nau. Er will awer ah en Breisbuch, wenn Du noch eens iwer der "Schinnerhannes" hoscht so schick ihm sell. Ich hab immer groszer Glawe an die Zwiewel g'hot un hab meiner Fraa, der Saelly, schun oft browiert zu explehne, was for heilgraeftige Kreiter die Deitsche hen.

By the way, mei Fraa is irish un wie ich schun ghert hab, is Deine ah, so ebbes. Well, well, wer het sell nau ixpect! Do sin mir jo, wie die Hochdeitsche sage, Leidensgenosse. Well meenscht Du net ah, dasz es sunnerbar is, dasz so viel junge deitsche Kerl. englische Weiwer heirathe? Ich bin jetzt siwe Johr im Ehschtand (fast haett ich Wehschtand hingekritzelt) un hab schun oft driwer noch simuliert, was for en kurios Ding die Lieb is. By Jinks, sie fallt manchmol uf kuriose Blaetz hin. Die englische Maed hen wohl ah ehre gute Points, awer im Durchschnitt gnumme mehn ich, dasz sie doch net so gut koche kenne wie mei Mutter als gekocht hot, wie ich noch daheem wor. Certainly, die deitsch Kocherei nent ah meener Zeit wie die englische Kichewerthschaft, un is deszwege ah besser verdaulich. Nix macht der Saelly meh Freed als wenn sie Beefsteak brot. Um ¼ bis 12 kummt die Pann uf de Ofe, des Fleesch werd neigschmisse un e poormol rumgflappt un kummt dann uf de Disch mit Grumbiere, mit dene man oftmols ganz gut Baseball schpiele kennt. Wann ich dann brumm, so macht sie en brotzig Gsicht un sagt: "Why didn't you marry a Dutch wife?" Do hot mer dann die Bescheering un losz ich als mei Wuth am Beefsteak aus, dasz als manchmol so zaeh is, dasz mer ganz gut Scheierdohrbaender davun mache kennt. En annere kuriose circumstance is, dasz deitsche Dienstmaed in der Familie, die englisch Kocherei blitzschnell lerne, awer ah ken Wunner! Sie nemmt net so viel Zeit weg, des bissel Gscherr was dazu gejuhst werd, is schnell gewesche nochher butze sich die Maed raus wie die Pingstochse, gehne uf die Schtrosz, um ehre Fellers ufzusuche. Ah met de Kinner hot's sei Naube, die sin meerschtedehls net deitsch un net englisch. Uf den Punkt will ich awwer an annermol zerickkumme. Beschur die englische Weibsleit hen ah ehre gute Points, des wersch Du hoffentlich ah wisse.

Geb mich juscht net weg, sunscht gebts Pruegel in mener Shanty. Es is mir net wege der Schlaeg, sunner wege dem Beseschtiel: Du weescht die Zeite sin hart un kann ich net afforde all poor Woche en neier Bese zu kaafe.

Mei Nochbor, der Michel, is boss iwer mich un bisch Du gewissermasze Schuld dran. Seit de letschte Sechs Johr pumpt er mei "Glocke" un hab ich ihm letscht Woch gsaht, dasz selle Business ufheere musz un dasz wenn er die Zeiding will, so sott er sie beschtelle. Er kann's mache, is awer so geizig, dasz er en Warz hinne an seim Hals fer en Knopp juhst, juscht um die Koschte zu spare, dasz er keen Krageknobb zu kaafe braucht. Des Zeitingsborge kummt mir juscht ebaut vor wie's Weiwerschwappe un obgleich mei Alte irish is, so gleich ich sie doch, un will sie ganz aleenig in meim Haus hawe.

Ich musz jetzt stoppe, die Saelly will mir heit Owet Krumbierepannkuche backe un do sell en deitsche Esserei is, musz ich mich beheefe un's Bobbi hiete ,sunscht —gebt's widder en scene.

Dei Freind,

JOE KLOTZKOPP.

N.B. In sellere Zeiding wo Du fer mich druckscht, losz mei Name haus, net dasz ich Bang hab for der Saelly, awwer ich meen juscht es waer vielleicht doch seefer fer mich. Mer weesz doch net was passiere koennt. Es is schun manch Flint losgange was net gelade war.—

J.K.

MARY'S LAMM

Die Mary hot en Lemmel ghatt,
Sei Woll waar weiss wie Schnee,
Un wu die Mary hiegange iss,
Des Lamm waar schur zu geh.
Es iss emol mit noch de Schul,
Sei Keepers dart zu mache,
No hen die Kinner in de Schul
Aafange laut zu lache.

Die Meeschtern hot sich no verzarnt,
Un hot ihr Schtecke grickt,
Un hot die Dier weit uffgemacht
Un hot 's Lamm nausgekickt.
Sie hot zu ihre Schieler gsaat;
"Un ihr verbrecht mei Rul;
Ich hab schunn zu viel yunge Schof
In meine gleene Schul."

Des Lamm iss no ums Haus rumgschprunge,
Hot sich im Graas verweilt,
Die Mary hot im Schulhaus ghockt
Un hot en paar Schtunn gheilt.
No wie die Schul ausgange waar,
Iss sie graad uff un fart,
Un hot ihr Lamm mit Heem genumme
Un hot's noch sell'm eigschparrt.

Sie hot's gut gfiedert alle Daag,
Sei Drog waar allfert voll;
Es iss no schtarrick uffgewachse
Mit scheener,weisser Woll.
Die Mary hot ihr Scheer no gsucht—
Sie hot sie als verlore—
Un hot des Lamm uff Riggel gschnallt
Un hot sei Woll abgschore.

Sie hot no gschafft an ihre Woll,
En Woch schier Daag un Nacht,
Un hot sich vun de schenschte Woll
En neier Frack gemacht.
Un wie der Frack recht fartich waar,
Hot sie sich Nodle grickt,
Un mit de Woll, wu iwwrich waar,
Hot sie sich Schtrimplen gschtrickt.

Wie's Lamm noch yung waar, waar's so schee
Wie'n scheener Blummeschtock;
Wie's awwer uffgewachse waar,
No waar's en wieschter Bock.
Die Mary hot ihn no verkaaft
Zum alde Budscher Kamm;
Der hot ihn gschlacht un des, ihr Leit,
Waar's letscht vun Mary's Lamm.

DAVID B. BRUNNER (Goethe von Berks)
1835-1903

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II

ANDREW SCHUMACHER

John Adam Rittinger's example (see last issue of the ECK) seems to have encouraged others to the use, occasional or regular, of the dialect in print. When Ezra E. Eby, a man of genuine colonial stock, published in 1895 his "Biographical History of Waterloo County" he concluded it with the touching lines:

Wo sin jetzt die alte Doddys
Vun die gute alte Zeit?
Wo sin die gute alte Mommies,
Die scheene gute alte Leit?
Ma sehn sie nimme bei uns do,
Die scheene gute alte Leit.
Im Himmel sin sie jetzt so froh
Un frehen sich in Ewigkeit.

More directly a disciple of Rittinger was Andrew Schumacher. A farmer's son from Formosa, Bruce County, Ontario (b. March 3, 1855), where his parents had settled after emigrating from Ramstein, district of Landstuhl, in the Palatinate, he had very little formal schooling and spent the early years of his manhood in the Middle West, working on farms during the summers and in the woods during the winters. In 1885 he moved to Walkerton, Ontario, and in 1893 became an employee of John Adam Rittinger as an agent for the "Glocke." Since 1913 he lived in Berlin. It was under Rittinger's influence that he started writing dialect stories for the newspapers. As such he seems never to have adopted a pen name. In 1930-32, while I exchanged letters with him, he was a regular contributor to the "Daily Record," edited by Wm. J. Motz, who from 1905-1915 had been a partner of John Rittinger as an editor of the Berlin Journal. With pride Mr. Schumacher pointed out that only recently he had received a letter from Minnesota offering "to pay liberally" for a copy of his story "Der Schwarzkopp" which had just appeared in the "Record", subscribed to by a friend of the letter-writer, who would not part with it. Schumacher did stick to the German spelling. The custom of spelling the dialect in the English way in English language papers, established by men like Rauch and Harter in Pennsylvania, seems never to have taken root in Ontario. For also the late Elias H. Good, the third author of dialect letters in Ontario, who for a number of years conducted a dialect column "Der Dahde un sei Buh" for the Kitchener Daily Record (see files of the ECK for 1936 and 1937 for frequent contributions from Mr. Good) patterned his spelling after the High German. To Andrew Schumacher this was the more natural, since he wrote, besides his letters and occasional poems in the dialect, also a number of poems in High German. Some of these are not without a certain value as pictures of folkways, e. g. "Zuckerkochen in Kanada." But for the readers of the ECK I shall rather subjoin a poem Schumacher wrote in the dialect, though I admit that but for its being a linguistic document its merits are doubtful. But first let me submit Schumacher's interesting story:

DER SCHWARZKOPP

Mister Editor,

Der ald Hannes Kubberdroht un sei Fra, die "Schtasi," wu newich der Grundsauleek wone, sin juscht ebaut so feine ardliche Leit wie mer in Wadlo (Waterloo) Kounty otreffe kann. Sie hen juscht e Kind greest, der Hen, wo die ald Homestead hot solle iwarnemme enicher Dag wo er reddi war. Nadierlich hot er heire solle un sei egne Scho ronne. Awwer der Hen hot net obeisze welle. Er is wohl iweral rumgschniekt awer er hot nix gfunne was gsuht hot.

Seine Leit is die Zeid lang warre un hotn emol e Dag sei Mam in die Hechel gnumme un gfrogt ob er nau net bal obeisze wett un sich e Fra oschaffe. Es wer nau schier gor Zeid. Mer hent doch plenty brafe Meed um uns rum un ich wees du kannscht dei Pick hawe, hot sei Mam gmeent.

"Well, Mam," secht der Hen dodrufhie, "ich weesz dasz es net an braafe Meed fehlt, awer ich nemm kee annere wie eene wo krabbeschwarze Hohr hot. Die Helle sin zu zimberlich, die Braune zu sweet for e Bauer, un wann ich juscht an e Rothe denk nott krieg ich schun die Scvhiwwers. Die schwarzhohriche sin die eenziche wu Willpower hen un e Konstituschon so toff wie Juchteledder."

"Ach, Hen," secht dodrufhie sei Mam, "sei doch net so labbich. Was hot dann die Hohrfarb mit eme brafe Meedel zu dhu? Em Pete sei Fra hot helle Hohr un em John seine hot rothe Hohr, un wu kannnscht du zwee bessere Weibsbilder otreffe wie selle Zee? Du selwart hoscht helle Hohre, awer zimperlich bischt du doch net."

"Alright, Mam," secht jetzt der Hen, "ich will dir dei Wille dhu, inseid vun drei Munat haw ich e Fra, awer e schwazkeppiche un ke annere."

Uf des hie hot der Hen jede Owed sei Dreiwer ins Boggi gschpannt un is fat gjagt, wohie hot nimmand gwiszt. Bis awer drei woche rum ware hot er e Marje zu seine Mam gsagt: "Mam, ich hab jetzt gfunne was ich gsucht hab. In drei Woche due mer heire. Sie is e recht ardlich un brav Baueremaedel: Ehre Vadder is e reicher Bauer, un hot juscht zwee Kinner. Sie is drei Johr jinger wie ich bin, schtark un gsund un die Hauptsach is awer dasz sie arich schee is un Hohre genug ufm Kopp hot for drei Weibsbilder auszzumache. Un die sin net juscht bechschwaz, sie sin for e fact blue-black wie Dinte. Ich meen der Schdamm wo so a schwere Gibbel sopporte kann musz ah gsunde un feschte Wazle han."

Des Ding wor gut. Eb die drei Woch rum wore kriegt der Hen e Brief vumma gude alde Chum in Alberta, was mit achtzeh Johr naus west is un e Fortschen gmacht hot mit Rihlestet. Grad um die Zeid hot er en imprufte Bauerei vun 5000 Acker kaaft un weil er gwiszt hot dasz der Hen e guter Manager un Schaffer is hot er ihm gschriwe er sott grad kumme un die Farm haendle for en. Er miszt sich awer verbinne for e Johr un for sell hot 'r em $1200 un's Reesgeld hie un her verschbroche.

Des hot awer e Monkey wrench in die Hochzich nei gschmisse, so dasz sei schwazkeppicher Schwazkopp bang kriegt hot wann er e ganz Johr fat is dernot kennt er am End ganz ausbacke. Der Hen hot awer e Dodesangscht ausgschdanne es kennt ener kumme un sie ihm wegschnappe weil er fat is. Der affer wor awer zu tempting for rifuse. Es wor em net alee um die $1200, awer wie er gmeent hot, die Chance for Expierenz zu kriege, wer ihm e grosser Benefit for sei Lewesdag. Sie hen ausgmacht, dasz sie ke Hochzich mache wette, weil die Zeid zu kaz wor.

Well, wie dernot der Dag kumme is sin die Zwee zum Breddicher gfahre un hen en de Ehknobb verknibble losse, die Fies bezahlt un grad widder hehm zu der Betsy ehre Leit. Es war schun arranged, dasz die Betz sollt daheem bleiwe bis er widder zurick kummt. Zwee Dag druf hot sie de Hen an die Station gfohre un wie er sei Ticket im Sack un de Grib getscheckt hot ghatte, sin sie hinnich die Station un hen enanner verboszt dasz es gschmatzt hot, wie wann die cutoffs vun e pohr Rocky Mountain freight engines in operation were. Der Hen hot sich ganz in ehr blue-black Hohr verkroche ghatte, dasz mer net viel meh gsehe hot vun em wie sei Fiesz. Erscht wie der Kondokter grufe hot "All Aboard" is der Hen uf die Train getschumbt un "Hopla" fat nach Alberta.

Well, wie des so Steil is bei junge verheierte Leit, hen die Zwee enanner schier alle Dag gschriwe. Er hot nie vergesse zu mentschene wie glicklich dasz er is weil er de scheenscht Schwarzkopp im ganz Wadlo Kaunty jetzt egent, usw. Wie ebaut dreiviertel vum Johr rum ware hot em Hen sei Baas die Bauerei verkaaft. Der nei Egner nemmt grad Possession. Der Hen is voll ausbzahlt worre fors ganz John un e paar Dag druf hot er de Prairiesschtaab vun seine Fiesz gschittelt un is "Hopla" uf Ontario zugfohre. Vun all dem hot er awer der Betsy nix gschriwe. Er wollt sei liewer Schwarzkopp emol recht surpreise.

Der Hen is oweds schpot bei der Betsy ehre Leit okumme uns erscht Wat as er rauskriegt hot for Eckseitment wor "Wo is dann die Betsy? Was macht mei Betsy?"—"Ei geh juscht dat nei, du wersch sie wohl finne." Well, der Hen is grad in die Schdubb neigschtormt wie wann a Kunschdawler hinnich em her wer. Awer wie er sie gsehe hot, hot er so gschwind gschdabbt, dasz sei Hut vanne nunner gedrabbt is. Er is net grad zu Salz warre wie em Lot sei Fraa awers neckst Ding dazu. Es wor ah ke Wunner. Im Blatz vumme bechschwaze, blue-black Schwazkopp find er e feierrother Fuchs. Er hot juscht sofiel raus kriegt: "Excuse mich Betsy, ich muss grad hem zu meine Leit. Marje kumm ich widder, gut neit!" Die arm Betsy hot sich schier dot gheilt. Sie hot jetzt erscht rieleist was sie ogschtellt hot, awer sie hot sich heilich vorgnumme, wann er zurick kummt un ehre verzeiht, not wott sie alles dhu was e Weibsmensch dhu kann for ihm e gude, gedreie un ehrliche Fraa zu sei.

Wie der Hen daheem okumme is wor juscht sei Mam im Haus. "Ei Botzdausich, Hen, bischt schun zurick vun Alberta" hot sie gfrogt. Der Hen hot glei verzehlt was ghappend hot dasz er schun zurick is.

"Weesz die Betsy schun dasz du zurick bischt?"

"Jo, sie weesz es, ich war schun dat."

"Ich denk sie hot sich arich gfreit wie sie dich gsehe hot, net wohr, Hen?"

"Ich weesz net ob sie sich gfreit hot odder net, awer ich bin verdollt schur dasz ich mich net gfreit hab."

"Ei der dausich, Hen, was hots do gewe."

"Du weescht Mam, dasz ich gsagt hab ich heier ke annere wie e Schwazkopp, un des haw ich ah gedhu. Awer wie ich heit hie kumme bin hot sie feierrothe Hohr."

Ich fiel schur dasz sei gude Mam ah gschackt war weil die Betsy des geduh hot, awer der Kehs pruft emol widder was e gude, gedreie, verschtenniche Mam net alles dhu kann. "Hen," hot sie gasgt, "jetzt harch emol. Die Betsy het des net grad dhu breiche, wenn sie for dich ausgekott wor noht het sie dich doch kriegt uhne sell. Sei hot wege sellem nix schlimmers gedhu wie die Meed heitzudag schier alle dhu wo uf Menner aus sin. Why, ich hab selwert schu gesehe dasz ene nix wie falsche Hohr ghat hot un der Mann hots net genotist bis es zu schpot war. En annere hot's gepackt met em Maul voll falsche Zeh un wie die Mehd die Freck noch recht lang gwohre hen, hot aa hie un do ene gepackt met eme kinschtliche Fusz. Nee Hen, die Farb vun de Hohr macht e Fraa net gut un aa net schlecht. Wie ich hehr soll die Betsy e recht brav schaffich un ehrlich Weibsmensch sei un du hoschts Glick ghat e gute Hausfraa zu kriege. Dann losz die Hohr roth odder schwaz sei. Wann e Weibsbild sunscht nix daugt is sie in schpeit vun schwaze Hohr doch ke Schusz Bulfer werth. Wenn die Betsy reddi is nott bring sie her un fang oh haushalte. Mir winsche eich Glick un ich un der Dady duhn eich mithelfe wos fehlt."

Wie sei Mam fertich wor hot der Hen gheilt wie e Nordwind un hot ere verschproche dasz er der Betsy jetzt schun verzeiht hot un dasz er in allem uf de Mam ihr Edweis geh will. Des hot der Hen ah gedhu un sie lewe jetzt schun manch Johr beinanner un kumme recht sche forwarts.

Eb der Hen awer die rothkeppich Betsy heemgholt hot is er noch Guelph un hot sich e ganz abbadich extra Brill kaaft for $25. Alles was roth war hot selle Brill kohlschwaz gmacht. Em Guckelhah' sei Kowel, rothgeferbte Backe un Lippel un rothe Schnapsnase hen schwarz geguckt darch selle Brill. Der Betz ihr Hohr war a widder blue-black. Wann sie der Hen gfrogt hot for was er selle Brill wehrt, hot er als gsacht: "Ich hab wehe Aage kriegt vun Schneeblindheit in Alberta un der Aagedoctor hot mich g'ardert die Brill zu wehre bis mei Aage widder schtark sin."

Der Hen hot schun lang widder gude Aage un die roth Farb baddert en ah for kammen nimme. Die Brill juhst er juscht noch wann er helft Sei butchere. Net dasz er chicken-hearted is, awer die Seit vum rothe Blut macht en immer zurick denke wie er vun Alberta heem kumme is un fors erschtemol e rother Schwazkopp gsehne un die riel Schiwers kriegt hot.

The reader will see that Schumacher's diction and the way he adapts his spelling to the sounds of the spoken tongue renders his Pennsylvania German more idiomatic than that of Rittinger. It must be remembered however that our specimen of the latter's prose dated back to his beginning as a dialect writer and that he had much time left to purify his style. Schumacher is not always consistent. His usual form e.g. for "seen" is "gsehe" but in the last line he slips into standard Pennsylvania German "gsehne." The head-word he spells "Schwazkopp," everywhere but in the headline and two instances in the text where he (or the typesetter) has added an "r."

And now one of Schumacher's poems transscribed from the manuscript.

Schneider un Seegmiller

Es wor emol en Schneider gwest,
Hot Kittel, Wescht un Hosse gneht.
Er hot alsfat sei Bescht's gedu,
Un hot doch alles gmacht verdreht.

Die Knepp die wore viel zu gross,
Es Knopploch ganz un gor zu klee.
De Kittel wor for schur zu kaz,
Un viel zu eng die Hossabee.

Es allerschlimmst wor, dasz die Seck
Hen nunner greecht bis an die Knie.
Des Silwer hot sich drin verschluppt,
De Schinner hot net gewisst wohie.

Er hot en alter Kunne ghat.
Dem hot er gmacht en neie Suht.
Un weil sie hot gar net gebasst,
Do hot der kriegt en Deiwelswut.

Glei is er hie zum Schneider gschtermt,
Un hot en fescht beim Wickel kriegt;
"Do hoscht dei Schund, gebs Geld eraus,
Sunscht sehnscht wohie de Schneider fliegt.

Du weescht ich gleich mei Gleeder weit,
Un so viel Duch hoscht du verlangt.
Des haw ich dir doher gebrocht
Un Cash-Bezahlung hiegeblankt.

De Kittel is mer viel zu eng,
In'd Hosse kumm ich gor net nei.
E verdel Duch hoscht weggebutzt.
Ich peif dir in so Schneiderei."

De Kunne hot e Seegmiehl gronnt
Un hot e Bank ghat in de Schtadt.
Dem Schneider hot des grad gebasst,
Sei Anser hot er reddi ghat:

"Du dreibsch en Seegmiehl for Broflt
Un seegsch de Baure ehre Bleck.
Met ehrem Seegmehl machsch du Schtiem,
Die Schwarte peilsch for dich aweg.

E verdel nemmsch vun jedem Block
Un kriegsch ah noch de Seegerloh.
E Schneider bleibt en armer Dropp.
Du hoscht e Bank noch newedro.

De Bauer drickt zwee Aage zu.
Du winselsch um der Fetzle Duch.
Wer raabt es meenscht darchs ganze Johr?
Ich denk sell schteht net in deim Buch."

De Seeger hot sich arich gscheemt,
Weil all die Nehtra hen gelauscht.
Sell neie Suht die basst nau doch.
De Schneider lacht sich in die Fauscht.

Pennsylvania German Dialect Writings, North and West

By HEINZ KLOSZ

(This is the third of a series of three articles by the most eminent European authority on the subject of the Pennsylvania Germans.)

III

PENNSYLVANIA Germans have settled in nearly all parts of Ohio, but a majority of them will be found within three groups of counties comprising: (a) Stark, Wayne, Ashland, Holmes and Tuscarawas in the Northeast; (b) Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, Muskingum and Perry in the center; (c) Montgomery, Darke, Clarke, and Preble in the Southwest. These sections constitute part of the hinterland, respectively, of the cities of Canton in the Northeast, Columbus in the center, Dayton and Cincinnati in the Southwest, all of which cities have had a large Pennsylvania German admixture since their beginning.

The dialect as spoken in Ohio seems never to have been thoroughly investigated. The "Penn Germania" (No. 2, 1912) printed a dialogue in what was said to represent the dialect from Perry County. The dialog was carried on between two men, one on the top of a hill, the other at the foot of the hill. It began thus:

A (on the top of a hill): Gudda Mira, dot drunna.

B (at the foot of the hill): Gudda Mira, dot drovva.

A: Ve sin all de leidt?

B: O, yusht so tzimlich, de alt is vitter om grexer. Se hut noch may colt gafanga und se iss garbarmlich gritelich.—Und ve sin di leidt?

A: Net irk gute. De Ket iss alendich und ich hop des fafiums rumatics.

B: Vas far glick hust do cot hunda?

A: Recht gute. Ich hope drimole chusse and hope dri schawl gadrickt. Sell iss net so schlecht faw an alter mon.—Ve var di glick?

B: Ah do yemmer, gar nix, hop drimole chusse un hop yader mol gar ken git gadue.

This dialogue is remarkable, as can be seen from these few lines, for its wide departure from standard Pennsylvania German. Whether this was due to actual differens in speech-forms or merely to the inaccuracy of a careless or inexperienced observer remains to be investigated. There is in existence a body of orally transmitted folk-literature.

In a letter dated April 4, 1931, Mr. John R. Mumaw, then a student at Virginia University, asked for my opinion regarding linguistic research work among Pennsylvania Germans in Ohio, and wrote of himself: "Being a Pennsylvania Dutchman though born in Ohio I am intensely interested in my mother tongue." Out of the three possibilities mentioned by him, namely: (1) collection and study of individual Pennsylvania German literature in Ohio; (2) compilation of some author's uncollected works; (3) collection and study of Pennsylvania German folklore in Ohio—I suggested that he should follow up the third-named. In a letter of Nov. 30, 1931, he reported about his field work which had required a trip from Virginia to Ohio. "My trip was quite successful in this that I found the collecting of Pennsylvania German folklore quite fascinating. I have enough material on hand to meet the requirements of a Master's thesis at the University. I feel, however that I have merely begun my work of collection. I have gathered in alliterations, various types of beliefs and superstitions, proverbs, riddles, gnomic verses, miscellaneous and proverbial rhymes, several stories, signs and traditional customs as well as a group of familiar and characteristic expressions." So far as I know Mr. Mumaw who in the meantime had become Instructor of English at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Va., has never published his material. At any rate, there can be no doubt that Ohio has a Pennsylvania German folkloristic tradition deserving further research work.

But what about individual literature, about authors, newspapers and books? Certainly Mr. Mumaw has not been the only native Ohioan to stick up for the dialect. Judge Peter Grosscup of the U. S. Court of Appeals in Chicago (b. in Ashland, Ohio, 1852), in a speech delivered at Bowers, Pa., Nov. 7, 1909, and quoted in the "Pennsylvania German Magazine," declared that in his opinion a speedy disappearance of the dialect was neither probable nor desirable. He hoped that it would persist as the French language does in Canada, and that it would become the vehicle of historical novels that would accomplish for the Pennsylvania Germans what Walter Scott did for Scotland. "It has conveyed many a message of love out in Ohio where I heard it spoken among the neighbours."

What then was the role of individual dialect literature in Ohio? I shall restrict myself to a number of hints and a single extensive quotation. Cincinnati has, at all times, harbored a good many Pennsylvania Germans. In 1844 a play "Der Amtsbewerber" (The Office Seeker) by L. A. Wollenweber, a native of the Palatinate and a resident of Pennsylvania, was produced at the German Theatre in Cincinnati. Part of the dialogue was written in Pennsylvania German, or rather in what Wollenweber, who sometime confused Pennsylvania German with its twin dialect from the Palatinate, believed to be Pennsylvania German. The plot dealt with a political election in a small town in Pennsylvania ("Volksblatt," Cincinnati, Sept. 3, 1911.) Prof. Ralph C. Wood, to whom I owe this communication, wrote me in 1932, that he has found in the 19th century files of the "Volksblatt" and of the "Freie Presse," Cincinnati's leading German newspapers, a number of letters written in genuine Pennsylvania German. While the performance of Wollenweber's play does not imply the presence of Pennsylvania Germans in the city—the audience might have consisted of German immigrants—it is different with these letters. Professor Wood is himself a native of Cincinnati, who speaks and writes the dialect. I am quite confident that a thorough searching of old-time newspapers in Southwestern Ohio would unearth many specimens of Pennsylvania German letters, though we might not be able to weave them together into the fabric of a coherent tradition of dialect-writing. Germantown, in Montgomery County, Ohio, has long been a center of Pennsylvania Germandom, where in 1937 I found that the dialect was still being used by many old folks especially from the countryside. (About linguistic conditions in Germantown, Ohio, in 1911, see J. P. Hentz in The Pennsylvania German, Vol. XII, 1911, pp. 655-664.) It is quite possible that the old-time newspapers of this and similar small towns in Southwestern and central Ohio would yield a harvest of at least sporadic dialect texts.

Yet it is to northeastern, or should I say mid-eastern, Ohio that we have to look in the first place. Here the four counties of Tuscarawas, Holmes, Stark and Wayne have been called in the 19th century the Pennsylvania German quarter, and it is here that I discovered, in 1937, the temporary existence of a dialect column in the weekly "Budget" of the small town of Sugar Creek. It had been written during part of the thirties by William Horner, a Dunkard living in East Canton, who used the pen-name Fritz Schnitzer. His last letter which was published in the "Budget" of Feb. 28, 1935, has been reprinted in the ECK of Nov. 26, 1938. During the twenties the "Budget" had reprinted the Boonastiel letters of Thomas Harter. When Mr. Mumaw called on the office of the "Budget" in 1931, Horner's letters were not yet and Harter's no longer being published.

The question now arises whether there had been in the press of the "Pennsylvania German quarter," earlier dialect columns, the "Budget" thus having followed, unconsciously perhaps, an older tradition. Harry Hess Reichard, in his "Pennsylvania German Dialect Writings (1918, p. 398) lists the "Canton Repository" among the newspapers which were, or at one time had been, publishing dialect selections. When E. H. Rauch in 1873 brought out his bi-lingual monthly "The Pennsylvania Dutchman," the "Repository" introduced the editor with the remark "Mr. Rauch is best known to our readers under the title of Pit Schweffelbrenner" (Reichard, loco citato, p. 80.) Thus Rauch's newspaper letters had been reprinted in Canton around 1870, just as Harter's were in Sugar Creek more than 50 years later. But were dialect columns restricted to the "Repository" and did they include original contributions? We can answer this question at least in part from a clipping I found in 1931 on the desk of the State Archivist in Harrisburg. The name of the paper was not given, but here is the text:

En Story vun der Lektschen wu wahr is

Conton, Ohio, Dec. 2, 1868.

Der Jaeck Trumpaus uf Shippenas kummt in Canton zu er Croud Shippenoser, just so schwarz wie er selwer, un hoert vun der Hochzeit der alt Schwarzgreth "Repository" un dem scheckige Afrikanischer "Republikan." Well, sie hen vor lauter Frehd iwer die Lektschen Aage gemacht so gross wie Buggyraedder, un ihre Meiler un Nase ufgeblosse wie en Bullfrog sei Hinnerdehl uffblosst wann er en Elephant seht, un hen exactly ah wie die Bullfrogs gebrillt. Sie hen verzehlt, wie (sie) Votes gemacht un wie (sie) vier vun selle Greenbaecks, wu sie gestohle for Votes kahfe, gespent hen. En Schuhflicker-Bockledder hot en alte schwache Mann zu der Hinnerthuer neigeboxt un ihn vor Grant vote mache un ihm noht en Paar geflickte Schuh davor gewe. En Klehderpfuscher hot so enem fromme klehne Schneiderriesle Stoff vor en Paar Hosse zu mache gewe, un ihm weissgemacht, der Seymour sei en Freimaurer un mit dem Deifel in Partnerschip, un der Grant sei en Engel. Jaeck Trumpaus der arme hot enem Mann en Load Sand vor nix gefahre un en Hafe voll Latwerch un Stinkkaes versproche, wann er das raedikel Ticket vote daet, awer Jaeck Trumpaus is mit Herzbauer an der Presiden (sic!) —Lektschen abgetrumpft un gefuhlt worre. En annere hen die Radikels mit Whisky gekaaft un ihm weissgemacht Grant sei en Demokrat. En Blackschmidt, der in der Foundry schafft, hot vor Grant un Colfax gevot, weil er gefercht hat er verliert sei Platz, selle Blackschmidt suht Colfax, den Knownothing, wu die Auslaenner, un apartig die Katholische, Rindvieh heesst un zum Land nausjage will, exactly. En annerer hot sei Vote for Grant for en stinkige Worscht hergewe, un der Mauschel Herzel un dem (sic) grisslich Thom hen Hochzigkuche backe losse un Votes geketscht. Uf seller miserablige un niedertraechtige Weg hen die Radikels Grant elect un nau aus Frehd sin die zweh Wullyheads vun der alt Kratzbirst Repository un dem schmuhlig Republiken mit Haut un Woll in en Nest geschluppt un sin nau Paertner in ehner Maschin for Luegen un for Blackgarde un die fette Brocke vum Public Haffe zu ketsche un ihre Dickbeich an der Public Kripp noch mehner zu fuelle.

Saxon Tom un Herzel Schmuhl
Aus der Abolition-Schuhl
Lieben sich wie (Kater) Katzen
Die vornen lecken, hinten Kratzen.
Es werd geschmiert nach raedikel Ruhl
Vom dicken Tom un Herzel Schmuhl.

Trump uf Shippenas.

I need not here analyze the national and local background alluded to in this letter, which betrays a distrust for radical abolitionism, not unfrequent among Pennsylvania Germans of that period. The paper from which the clipping was taken cannot have been the "Repository" so heavily abused by "Trump uf Shippenas"! The German spelling suggests that it was a German language newspaper, but this argument is by no means conclusive since it is uncertain whether dialect contributors to English papers used English spelling prior to the letter by Rauch which began to appear in Lancaster in the same year, i.e. 1868.

Our letter tells us a twofold story regarding the dialect. We learn that during the reconstruction period other papers in or near Canton besides the "Repository" have published dialect letters. And it is now a certainty that besides reprints from Pennsylvania papers, there were original contributions, written by and for Ohioans. William Horner's letters, written in the 1930's have had forerunners, whether he knew it or not. This finding may some day serve as a starting point for somebody to delve more deeply into the past of the dialect in the former "Pennsylvania German quarters."

DE HOFFNING IHRE NACHTIGAAL

Inspired by the sunset and afterglow of Monday, Jan. 16
See the Allentown Morning Call for Tuesday, Jan. 17

Wie schee! Wann die Sunn unnergeht,
Schpinnt sie, wu doch ken Hende hot,
Fer Mensche all—ach! was en Freed—
En siess "Aufwiedersehn" vun Gott.

Der Englisch heesst 's en "afterglow,"
Un 's iss all sell un doch viel meh;
Der Deitsch, der yubelt's besser so:
"Aufwiedersehn" fer gross un glee!

O net in Warde watt 's uns gsaat,
Die Sunn verkinnt 's meh dief un glaar;
Haerze lese un wisse 's graad,
Was lieb so dutt—doch Wunnerbaar!

Schtill kummt die Nacht un schtill der Dot,
Doch schwebt zugleich en Maryeschtraahl—
Es iss die Auferschtehungs Not—
De Hoffning ihre Nachtigaal.

Die varsch hot die Buschamschel gsunge wie sie sell schee Owedrot Bild Dienschdaag, Jan. 17, im Allentown Morning Call gsehne hot.

KARZE REIME

Wasever du saagscht,
Wasever du duscht,
Duh niemand ken Schaade,
Noh iss ken Verluscht.

Wann Elend mol kummt
Un alles guckt schlecht,
Dann halt yuscht dei Mut,
Un alles kummt recht.

Wann blanse sie Bohne,
Kumme Hinkel un Haahne;
Des macht ne nix aus,
Sie scharre sie raus.

Die Crischtdaag sin verirwwer
Un die Nei Yaahr aa dezu;
Der Belsnickel iss widder heem,
Nau grickt mer bissel Ruh;
Die Kelt iss aa nau widder do,
Der Winder iss nau reif—
Nau hockt mer um der Offe
Un schmokt die Grutzepeif!

1950 —D. GEO. [illegible]